The House divided: Ayes 21, Noes 13 and Neutrals 2.

Ayes.

1 Mr. I. E. Ambooken.
2 ,, V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar.
3 ,, K. J. Antony.
4 ,, K. Ayyappan.
5 ,, M. A. Chakko.
6 ,, A. Eachara Menon.
7 Dr. A. G. Menon.
8 Mr. P. Krishna Menon.
9 ,, T. K. Nayar.
10 ,, P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.
11 Mr. A. K. Kunhi Moideen.
12 ,, C. A. Kunjunni Raja.
13 ,, C. V. Kuriyan.
14 ,, C. J. Mathew.
15 ,, K. T. Mathew.
16 ,, K. Mohamed Seethi.
17 ,, T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.
18 ,, M. K. Raman.
19 Dr. A. R. Menon.
20 Mr. A. B. Salem.
21 Mr. Thomas Manjuran.

Noes.

1 Mr. C. V. Antony.
2 ,, T. K. Krishna Menon.
3 ,, T. M. Krishna Menon.
4 ,, K. Krishna Pisharodi.
5 Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.
6 Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar.
7 ,, P. Nilakanta Menon.
8 Mr. V. D. Ouseph.
9 Rama Varmha Tampuran.
10 Mr. I. Raman Menon.
11 ,, K. Ramunni Menon.
12 ,, A. Sankara Menon.
13 Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.

Neutrals.

1 Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.
2 Dr. E. A. Veigas.

2. *Abolition of Devadasi system.*

Deputy President.—The next resolution stands in the name of Mr. K. T. Mathew.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Sir, I have already submitted a Bill regarding this, and I am awaiting Government sanction to introduce it in the Council. If I move this resolution in the Council, some Members may point out that the matter has been once taken up in the Council and that it cannot be moved. Therefore, I do not move.

Hence the following resolution was considered withdrawn.

"This Council requests the Government to abolish Devadasi system in the State",

3. *Free Malayalam Public Libraries.*

Deputy President.—The next resolution stands in the name of Mr. K. Ayyappan.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—

"This Council recommends to the Government to establish in every village of the State, for the benefit of the rural population, free Malayalam Public Libraries, attached to the premier school of the village."

സർ, പ്രാഥമിക വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിനുവേണ്ടി,.....

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—The resolution is in English and the Member also knows English. Then why can't he speak in English?

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. അയ്യപ്പൻ.—രാജ്യവിന്റെ ഭാഷയെക്കുടി കലപാതകം ചെയ്യാനുള്ള വശം എനിക്കു വന്നുട്ടില്ലാത്തതിനാൽ അതു

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

വരുമ്പോളാകാം. പ്രാഥമികവിദ്യാഭ്യാസം നടപ്പാക്കുവാൻവേണ്ടി നിബ്ബന്ധവിദ്യാഭ്യാസമില്ലാതെതന്നെ നമുക്കെങ്ങനെയാണ് പ്രയത്നിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ പ്രാഥമിക വിദ്യാഭ്യാസംകൊണ്ടുള്ള അക്ഷരജ്ഞാനം മാത്രമതിയാകുന്നതല്ല. Hartowg കമ്മിറ്റി റിപ്പോർട്ടിൽ പ്രാഥമിക വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം കഴിയുന്ന ആളുകൾക്ക് ആ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസംതന്നെ നല്ലനിലയിലാക്കുകയോ ഉപരി വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിന് സഹായിക്കുകയോ ചെയ്യുന്നില്ലെങ്കിൽ ആ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിനുള്ള പിഴവു വെറുതെതന്നെയാണെന്ന പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതു വളരെ ശരിയാണ്. ജനങ്ങൾക്കു അക്ഷരജ്ഞാനംമാത്രം പോരാ അറിവുണ്ടാക്കികൊടുക്കണം. ജനങ്ങൾ അറിവു സമ്പാദിക്കാൻ ആഗ്രഹിക്കയും ശ്രമിക്കയും ചെയ്യുന്നവരാകത്തക്ക ഒരന്തരീക്ഷമാണ് നമുക്കുണ്ടാക്കേണ്ടതു. ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ ഡയറക്ടർ അവർകളുടെ ശ്രദ്ധപതിവാൻ തുടങ്ങിയിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നാണറിവു. പബ്ലിക്ക് ലൈബ്രറികൾ പല സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലുണ്ടു. അവ സ്ഥീം കുറെക്കൂടി വിസ്തൃതമാക്കണം. അവ എല്ലാവില്ലേജുകളിലും വേണം. അതിന്റെ ഗുണം ബഹുജനങ്ങളുടെ ഇടയിൽ സംസ്കാരപരമായ ഒരന്തരീക്ഷമുണ്ടാകുന്നതിനു പുറമെ പൊതുജനങ്ങളും സ്കൂളുകളും തമ്മിൽ യോജിപ്പാനുംകൂടി ഇടയുണ്ടെന്നുള്ളതാകുന്നു. ഇപ്പോൾ ചെയ്യുന്ന പ്രവൃത്തി കുറെക്കൂടി വിസ്തൃതമാക്കണമെന്നെ ഞാൻ പറയുന്നുള്ളൂ.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Sir, I beg to second it.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—We want to hear the Government view on the matter, so that, if they accept the resolution, we may not have any further discussion on the subject.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—Sir, I am in the happy position of stating that we, on this side, have already realised the importance of Village Libraries suggested by the mover of the resolution who spoke just now, and more than expressing our agreement with him we have given proof of our belief in the utility of Village Libraries. The idea struck us more than three years ago that, along with the spread of mass education, it was time that we took measures for the establishment of Village Libraries. And, therefore, we took a certain number of typical villages in four taluks of the State, where the libraries were started. As suggested by the mover of the resolution, we utilised village schools for the purpose. We located the libraries in the village schools for more reasons than one. In the first place we could utilise the services of the village school masters for conducting the library; in the next place naturally the village school is the best place for the villagers to assemble. The idea of associating the rural population with the village school and using it for village uplift is an accepted one, and as the Member just now stated, the Hartoug Committee have also commended the idea. Not only here but all over India we find the idea is gaining

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ground that the village school may form the centre of village activities and be the centre for work connected with village uplift. The idea is gaining ground that the school is the natural meeting ground for all the activities intended for the improvement of village conditions, and, therefore, as part of that scheme, we are establishing these Village Libraries. As I have told you, as an experiment we have started a certain number of these Village Libraries in different parts of the State. I am happy to report to this House that the experiment has proved quite successful.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—How many of them have you got?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—Four. We have started them merely as an experiment. We wanted to know how far the literate population of the villages would appreciate our new endeavour in this direction. In Cochin we have selected Pallivirutti, in Kanayannur—Veliyanad, in Mukundapuram—Pudukkad, in Trichur—Choorakkattukara.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—The further north you go you always neglect the Chittur Taluk.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—I will give reasons for that. The Chittur Taluk, as I have already explained, is the most backward in regard to literacy. Where we start Village Libraries we must have literate people.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—But in the Chittur Taluk there must be one in Tamil and another in Malayalam.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—But the village population should know one or the other. As there is considerable expense in starting a library, we must have the guarantee that a sufficient number of people in the locality will make use of the library.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Well, Sir, in Chittur you *will* see just like in the East Coast that there is village life.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—What I say is that the amount of literacy in Chittur is low.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—How do you judge that, Sir?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—We have statistics. Primary education and the percentage of literacy are backward.

Mr. V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar.—What about Talappilly, Sir?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—Talappilly as a whole is less advanced than Trichur and the other taluks. It may be better than Chittur.

As I said, we wanted to make an experiment and we selected these places and the experiment has proved a success. We

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

do not go to the length of saying that these four are the only ideal places.

In regard to the initiation of such a movement like this, I think the House will agree with me.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.— So the Government accept this resolution?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—This is our position. We have tried an experiment. We find it quite successful. Now, if the mover wants that next year every village in the State should be provided with a library, it would not be practicable. As far as funds permit, we shall open more of such libraries and we are in complete sympathy with the idea underlying the resolution.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Of course, they accept. The resolution may be withdrawn.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—The principle is accepted.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. അയ്യപ്പൻ.—Withdraw ചെയ്യുന്നതു് ശരിക്കുണ്ടോ വിരോധമായി. വല്ലതും ഉണ്ടെങ്കിലല്ലേ വേണ്ടു? ഇതിൽ അതില്ലാതെ എന്തിനു withdraw ചെയ്യുന്നു?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—If the mover wants only a *gradual* establishment of these libraries, we have no objection to accept the resolution.

The following resolution, as amended by the addition of the word 'gradually' after the word 'Government', was accepted by the Government:

"This Council recommends to the Government gradually to establish in every village of the State, for the benefit of the rural population, free Malayalam Public Libraries, attached to the premier school of the village."

The House rose for the day at 5 p. m.

T. K. KRISHNA MENON,
Secretary to the Council.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly